

Remarks

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 to 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Angelos, U.S. Patent No. 5,881,763. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 as amended recites, in part, that the manifold includes a body with first, second and third fluid passages. The first passage connects a water inlet to a water exit. The second passage connects a drain inlet for connection to a boiling tank with a drain outlet. The third passage is positioned to connect the first and second passages so that water from the boiling tank is mixed with water from the water inlet within the body of the manifold.

Angelos clearly indicates that water from the boiler does not enter the manifold body to mix with water from the water inlet. Indeed, water is directed to the boiler from via output line 140 which has a backflow preventer 142 to prevent flow of water from the boiler to manifold body 102. Water is delivered to the boiler for heating via output line 112 and returned to mixer structure 116 for mixing with chilled water from the manifold body. However, mixer structure 116 is only taught and suggested as an external structure of manifold system 100. No embodiment or teaching of Angelos indicates that any mixing of water from the boiler or water heated by the boiler be routed through the manifold body and the express teaching and suggestion of Angelos is that all water from the boiler is kept outside the manifold body.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is not rendered obvious by the cited prior art and that claim 1 is condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 to 9 depend from and further limit claim 1. For at least the reasons cited above with regard to claim 1, Applicants submit that claims 2 to 9 are not rendered obvious by the cited prior art and that claims 2 to 9 are condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 10 to 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Angelos in view of Chang et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,303,006. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 recites, in part, that the manifold include a body with a means for creating a venturi effect in the second flow passage to produce a suction in the second flow passage and on

the drain inlet port. The Examiner has cited Chang as teaching or suggesting this structure. However, a close reading of Chang does not reveal any mention of a venturi effect being used to create suction within flow passages of a body. Applicants submit that the cited prior art does not render claim 10 obvious and that claim 10 is in condition for immediate allowance.

Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 to 13 depend from and further limit claim 10. For at least the reasons cited above with regard to claim 10, Applicants submit that claims 11 to 13 are not rendered obvious by the cited prior art and that claims 11 to 13 are condition for immediate allowance.

Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 14 as amended recites, in part, the same mixing of water from the boiler with water from the water inlet within the body of the manifold, as recited in claim 1 and discussed above. The Examiner has not asserted that Chang provides any further teaching or suggestion of the flow passages within the manifold body. Thus, for at least those reasons cited above with regard to claim 1, Applicants submit that the cited prior art does not render claim 14 obvious and that claim 14 is in condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

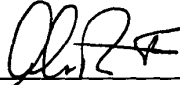
Claims 15 to 21 depend from and further limit claim 14. For at least the reasons cited above with regard to claim 14, Applicants submit that claims 15 to 21 are not rendered obvious by the cited prior art and that claims 15 to 21 are condition for immediate allowance.

Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment and Response to the current Office Action, or if the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would assist the examination of the present application, please contact Applicants' representative at 612.371.5376.

Respectfully submitted,
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